

PRESENTATION OF THE ACADEMY PLAQUE TO PAUL REZNIKOFF, M.D.*

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TWENTY-FIVE years ago the New York Academy of Medicine established the Academy Plaque as an award for outstanding contributions and distinguished service to the Academy. Dr. Paul Reznikoff is the 25th recipient. He joins other eminent physicians and laymen who not only have been instrumental in the affairs of the Academy but have been dedicated leaders in outside activities as well.

Paul Reznikoff is a New Yorker through and through. Born in Brooklyn, educated in the public schools there, he graduated from New York University and, in 1920, from Cornell University Medical College. Following his internship on the Second (Cornell University) Division of Bellevue Hospital he spent two years at Harvard Medical School, where he worked with Dr. Joseph Aub on studies of lead poisoning and was influenced by Drs. Walter B. Cannon and Alice Hamilton. In 1924 he joined the Department of Anatomy and Medicine at Cornell University Medical College and Bellevue's Second Division and later moved to The New York Hospital. He worked with Dr. Robert Chambers in anatomy and with Dr. Eugene DuBois in medicine. He developed an interest in clinical hematology, which was enhanced by a sabbatical in Europe, during which he studied with Dr. Victor Schilling in Berlin. In 1930 he established the Hematology Division within the Department of Medicine. After Dr. David P. Barr returned to Cornell as chairman of the Department of Medicine in 1941, Dr. Reznikoff renewed an old friendship and assumed increasing responsibilities in the department. Over the years he trained many distinguished hematologists and he rose to become professor of clinical medicine at Cornell and attending physician at The New York

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Hospital. His research and his academic accomplishments were recognized through his election to membership in the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. Cornell University Medical College gave him the Alumni Award of Distinction in 1962. As a hematologist, he served as the second president of the New York Society for the Study of Blood and as secretary-general of the Twelfth Congress of the International Society of Hematology when it met in New York in 1968.

In 1927, 50 years ago, Paul Reznikoff became a Fellow of The New York Academy of Medicine. His sponsors were three outstanding physicians, Drs. Eugene DuBois, Walter Niles, and Henry B. Richardson. He has made many contributions to the Academy through committee work. He served on the Committee on Admissions and on the Nominating Committee, of which he was chairman. For 20 years, from 1947 through 1966, he was an unusually active member of the Committee on Medical Education, serving as chairman for two years. When the hard working and influential Committee on Medicine and the Changing Order was established in 1943, Paul Reznikoff was one of the original members; he served until the committee had completed its work four years later. This committee devoted itself to the study of how the best qualities in medical practice, education, and research could be preserved and developed within the changing social order; it prepared 10 valuable reports which greatly influenced the entire field of medicine. From 1946 to 1950 Dr. Reznikoff served as a trustee of the Academy. After retirement from his academic post, he had time to exercise his latent interest in medical history by serving as president of the Friends of the Rare Book Room for a three-year term from 1971 through 1973.

Paul Reznikoff has many fine qualities. Above all he is a superb and compassionate clinician who always gives priority to the needs of his patients. He is attentive to his colleagues as well. He still visits daily with any staff members or friends who may be hospitalized in The New York Hospital, just as he has been doing ever since I have known him. He is one of the best remembered teachers in the medical college. Never too busy to talk to someone about a problem, he is a sincere and wise counselor. He is a world traveler and member of the Explorers Club. He is an inveterate reader of the *Manchester Guardian* and *Punch*. His sense of humor is reflected in the many stories he tells; he has an appropriate one for any occasion.

Anyone who knows the Reznikoffs realizes that a citation of Paul would be incomplete without mentioning his wife, Dorothy, who has been an active collaborator in some of his work. She has been his loyal supporter, has shared his interests, and has been a stimulus for his achievements.

It is with the greatest personal pleasure, gratitude, and pride that I present the Academy Plaque to Dr. Paul Reznikoff as a token of appreciation for all of his work. On the plaque is a medallion containing the bust of Hippocrates, which is the seal of the Academy, and the inscription "Presented to Paul Reznikoff in recognition of outstanding service to the New York Academy of Medicine."